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IN OTHER NEWS

From the Media

There was a very interesting segment on Seven Sharp on Thursday 24 September 2015, regarding Builders.

They had the Government on there saying products and the country have moved on since the leaking building saga. This appeared to be a bit of "we cocked up with the legislation so let's forget about that and get on to something different."

One of the facts discussed came from a 2006 report which stated that **less than 50% of builders were trade qualified.**

So what does that mean? Well in the electrical and plumbing gasfitting and drainlaying industries we are indentured trades where we do our apprenticeships and get qualified. The Government removed the apprenticeships for builders in the 90's.

One of the show's guests stated trade qualified (indentured), understand the risks and responsibilities. He bought up issues of supervision and where

You have to laugh



Some people are in to it and others are happy with the status quo but whatever way you go you have to laugh at this because if you don't laugh you would have to worry about what it all costs.

The Flag on the left is the "Peak" which has been proposed as our National flag representing what New Zealand is about. The flag on the right was made up using the Logo off the business card of a New Zealand uniform supplier. They have used the Logo for years. We are sure they will love the publicity whereby every New Zealander might be paying homage to their logo!

We have to admit that the uniform supplier does have high standards and a great reputation so perhaps that's what the Government aspires to.

We wonder if the Government is going to reimburse them for the artwork or if changing the colour makes it significantly different that they can claim it as their own.

This is for real...

Urgent Leaky pipe in bathroom

General Plumbing

Not your trade? [Change your trades](#). Incorrectly assigned or spam? [Report](#).

Upper Hutt, Hutt Valley

I require a leaky hot water pipe to be replaced by a certified plumber. labour only. I have the new pipes and have removed old pipe.

Do you want to chase?

Yes

No

That advertisement appeared on one of the job sites last week and just shows what people think of our industry. They expect to be able to do whatever work they want, supply the materials and then want us to put in the pipe work and take responsibility for ever and a day.

That just shows how ridiculous the situation has become! As an industry

that leads.

So where do we stand as an industry? Well yes we have apprenticeships but know training standards have dropped.

We have a registration system where partially qualified people can opt out at Licensing Level.

We have a system that allows for exemptions which puts us in the same situation as the builders where non trade qualified (indentured) people are working in the industry.

We know of three cases where the people have been given the top qualification in gasfitting, being Certifying Registration which puts our industry at risk.

We believe situations like this should be reviewed before they put the reputation of the industry at risk, and remember it is the Government appointed people who have done this not the industry, but it is the industry that is at risk.

The past Chairperson had said the issuing of the licences to three non trade qualified people was legal and that was the end of it and old flip flop Williamson supported him.

The Board may be able to move on from issues like this but is it because it is right to move on or is it because they were involved?

The Paul Gee case is another issue where it appears the Board just wants to forget and move on.

The industry can forgive and forget the small issues but the bigger issues needs addressing or more damage will be done to the industry and the relationships within it.

It seems to be that there is no-

we need to treat ourselves with pride and distinction and not crawl around picking up the scraps because others want a cheap deal. They know enough to want a certified plumber, but supplying their own pipe? Really? We can only hope no self respecting certified plumber saw fit to respond.

This is our take on it

Urgent Bugged Knees

General Surgery

Not your trade? [Change your trades](#). Incorrectly assigned or spam? [Report](#).

Upper Hutt, Hutt Valley

I require my knees to be replaced by a Registered Surgeon. labour only. I have the new joints and will remove the old ones. Hand tools and expendables such as glue and screws will be provided.

Do you want to chase?

Yes

No

You were given a voice so use it!



When you bury you head in the sand and say nothing, waiting for others to make change you become nothing more than a bicycle stand. The tradespeople in the Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying industries need to decide if they want change or more

conflict.

The Federation knows it wasn't the tradespeople who created the issues but they get the blame. It seems to be we are all sitting back dwelling on a dream that someone will wave a magic wand and all will be well, and while we are doing that we are forgetting to live.

Realistically the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board and the Government have nothing we want. We have the skills, the knowledge, the people power and the experience to do our jobs and protect the safety of the public - all they have is bureaucracy, and we know bureaucracy isn't going to clear drains, supply water and warmth to the public.

In essence we do have the power and it's just a matter of tradespeople being prepared to use it. The Federation believes the opportunities open to tradespeople at the moment are as good as they are going to get under the current government regime. We have been through five years of prolonged conflict and unlawful activities by the Regulator. The poor regulation has taken its toll on the industry and the tradespeople.

one in positions of authority protecting the industry and we are left with the scraps.

All of the reviews being conducted by the Government aren't going to mean shit if there are no indentured tradespeople who support them and the same goes for the Plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying Board.

The Plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying Board is an independent Statutory Board so perhaps that should push harder on the independence side of the issues and make decisions that will aid the industry whilst meeting their statutory obligations.

For this to happen they need the support of the industry which will mean they need to change, and the industry will need to put its neck on the line yet again.

There is a simple solution and that is having an Industry Board not a consumer protection Board and the amazing thing is it can be done under current legislation.

Where did things go so wrong with the regulation of the industry and what needs to change?

Where did things go so wrong with the training in the industry and what needs to change?

Why do tradespeople opt to look for ways to avoid the regulation of the industry and what needs to change?

Why is the plumbing Gasfitting and Drainlaying industry treated so differently to all other industries and professions in New Zealand?

Why does the Government continually give the portfolio to Ministers who don't really have

So here's the deal - as tradespeople we need to **make the changes for the industry to be kick started back to being well respected and prosperous. We all need to respond to the current consultation whether you support it or not i.e. we need to make our voice heard!**

Here is the Board's proposal for Continuing Professional Development.

- *4 - 6 hours of mandatory training per annum delivered to all licensed practitioners.*
- *Topics to be developed in conjunction with a stakeholder reference group, consisting of staff, the industry and The Skills Organisation.*
- *Topics may include, disciplinary concerns/risks, regulatory/legislative changes, health and safety, technical developments and other identified training needs.*
- *CPD will be delivered initially by a delivery arm of The Skills Organisation because this will give the Board the greatest opportunity to influence quality and control cost.*
- *There will be both in person and online options available with training days being organised throughout the country*

There will need to be a charge for the delivery of the training. This will need to be paid by each licensed practitioner. Currently the Board does not know exactly how much it will cost, but it will endeavour to keep that cost as low as possible by seeking sponsorship.

At this time the Board's best estimate is that the cost, if sponsorship can't be secured, will be approximately \$75 per practitioner. This amount would be paid by the practitioner to the delivery provider directly.

The Federation sees the following advantages:

Only matters that are identified and necessary for the tradespeople to know will be covered. There will no longer be a requirement to collect senseless points to prove competence.

Only time required for the passage of the identified and necessary information will be used. No wasting of time. For a person with three practicing licences it is a saving of **18 hours minimum**, plus travelling time , plus costs.

No more continually proving competence by purchasing points.

There is the computer based option for those who can't travel to the competence programmes proposed or who due to time constraints don't have time to attend.

The proposal is **closer to adhering to the intent of Act than the Board has ever been so should be looked at as benefiting the tradespeople and not the people riding on the coat tails of the registered people in the industry.**

The Federation answers to the consultation questions are as follows:

an interest or care about what happens?

These are all questions that need to be answered but the Government won't do it because in reality they don't really give a shit – and why? Because the current situation meets their needs in the eyes of the public and it doesn't cost them a cent.

Will they have enough competence points when it comes election time?

A huge thanks

Wal Gordon, Chairperson of the Federation extends his thanks to the Federation Executive Committee for another Stella effort in seeking Fairness and Equality for the industry.

This year has seen a lot of successes in achieving the purpose of the Federation and the committee have lived up to their word of spending your donations wisely with total expenses being a mere \$5,765.00. That's \$3,800.00 less than last year.

They have donated hundreds of hours of their time for the benefit of the industry and I am proud to work with such a devoted group of people.

Regards Wal Gordon

1. Do you support the proposal that CPD would be a mandatory course of 4-6 hours for each licensed practitioner?

Yes the Federation supports the proposal and believes the mandatory times of four to six hours is a good indicator of the time but should be set annually based on what mandatory subjects are required. The time allocation should not be used up just for the sake of using the time.

2. Do you have any topics that you want to suggest could be covered as part of that course?

Only subjects that are identified as being necessary for tradespeople to safely and competently perform their functions in the industry. The tradespeople in the industry and the Regulator need to realise the difference between “nice to know” and “need to know”, “nice to have” and “need to have”.

Currently others in the industry who are not tradespeople are attempting to dictate requirements for their own gain. This proposal must remain about identified needs that are necessary and must form a competence programme.

3. Do you have any comment to make about the estimated cost?

The cost should be on cost recovery only as practitioners should not be required to pay for others to profit from a mandatory requirement to attend a competence programme.

4. Do you have any other comments to make?

This is one of the best proposals regarding competence to come from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board for nearly a decade and appears to be the first attempt to adhere to legislation for the protection of the tradespeople and not for the benefit of organisations or training providers. It is not perfect but as time goes by the Federation is confident fine tuning will establish a scheme that meets the trade's people's needs and is imposed legally.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE FEDERATION SUBMISSION AND LINE OF THOUGHT THEN SIMPLY EMAIL THE BOARD THAT YOU AGREE WITH THE FEDERATION'S SUBMISSION BY 16 OCTOBER 2015 TO submissions@pgdb.co.nz – otherwise feel free to alter it to reflect YOUR opinion. But make sure you respond!

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